

forces be stimulated by the presence of a considerable quantity of imprisoned pus and micro-organisms? Far more likely that they would be hopelessly outnumbered, as I am convinced in numerous cases (including the one described in my letter) that they actually are.

May I add, in conclusion, that a number of practitioners with whom I have from time to time discussed this question hold views similar to mine.—I am, etc.,

Leamington Spa, Dec. 11.

J. R. A. DAVIES.

Virtues of "Brown" Bread

SIR,—Dr. Geoffrey Taylor's proposal in your issue of November 18 (p. 1022) that the British Medical Association "urge the Government to bring in measures to encourage, if not to enforce, the eating of brown bread by everyone, at least during the war," overlooks a number of important facts. First, not all "brown" bread is rich in vitamin B, for the vitamin is contained in the wheat germ, and "brown" bread often differs from white bread only in containing bran. Secondly, the general use of brown bread would eliminate an important source of animal feedstuffs, which are converted into animal foods consumed by man and containing vitamin B. There would be no net gain and there would probably be loss in the amount of vitamin B available. Thirdly, in a considerable number of cases the roughage in brown bread is irritating to the colon, and is probably a contributory factor in producing colitis. Fourthly, diets of the people of India are so restricted and otherwise poor in vitamin B owing to lack of animal foodstuffs that it is legitimate to advocate consumption in India of bread containing the germ of whole wheat. But it does not follow that McCarrison's work can be used to support similar measures in England.—I am, etc.,

Geneva, Nov. 30.

E. F. PENROSE.

SIR,—I should like to endorse the opinions already expressed in your correspondence columns on the value of whole-meal flour, by which I mean flour which represents the whole of the wheat berry. I conceive it to be the duty of the whole profession to urge the use of this flour upon the nation at the present juncture. That the general public are ready to take up the question I have ample proof in the mass of correspondence with which I have been flooded following a letter to the *Times* on November 21.

In order to buy back from the millers that which should never have been taken out the public have to pay six or seven times the cost of the wheat germ in order to recover the vitamin and mineral content in the shape of patent foods. Since writing to the *Times* I have discovered one firm which supplies flour representing the whole wheat berry; the address is: Messrs. John Wright (London), Ltd., 98-102, Bermondsey Wall, London, S.E.16. I did not know that such flour was obtainable previous to my original letter to the *Times*, and used to have bread made for my own household from wheat germ and whole-meal flour according to a recipe originally taken from correspondence in the *Journal* some time ago, which I would suggest should be republished for the information of those interested.—I am, etc.,

Lancaster, Dec. 11.

C. J. STOCKER.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Dr. Arthur King, of December 9 (p. 1164) states that in England the "colour prejudice" against brown bread is most pronounced among the poor and uninformed. If he were a housewife he would know the reason why—that brown bread is more expensive than white. Until this fantastic state of affairs is remedied there is little hope of inducing the "poor and uninformed" to eat brown bread instead of white. Individual denunciation is of little avail in such a case, but suitable action by the British Medical Association might well reverse the situation.—I am, etc.,

Cardiff, Dec. 11.

M. GRACE EGGLETON.

Tuberculosis in the Last War

SIR,—Your article entitled "A Nation in Good Health" (December 16, p. 1191) seems misleading in its statement that "tuberculosis notably declined during the [last] war." It is true that the number of fresh notifications of the disease received in 1913 was higher than in any subsequent year, but this perhaps is to be explained as the first effect of the Tuberculosis Regulations (1912), which enlarged the basis of notification by including non-pulmonary disease. During the period 1914-18 the death rate from tuberculosis substantially increased, and the downward tendency that had been observed for several decades was reversed. In 1918 the standardized death rate for pulmonary tuberculosis was higher than that touched twenty-five years previously. Similar increases were seen in other belligerent countries. That this was a consequence of the war is shown by the fact that the death rate fell rapidly after 1919. Tuberculosis is pre-eminently a disease which flourishes under the conditions of war.—I am, etc.,

London, W.C.1, Dec. 18.

HARLEY WILLIAMS.

Obituary

With the death of Dr. KEITH ROBERTSON on December 8, aged 61, the burgh of Greenock has lost one of its best known and highly esteemed practitioners. He had been in active practice till a month before. A native of the town in which he spent his active life, he was the son of the late Dr. J. K. Robertson. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Edinburgh University in 1901, and proceeded M.D. four years later. After graduation he served for a term as house-physician in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Later he took charge of about 400 cases of small-pox under the Greenock medical officer of health during an epidemic. Shortly after this he settled in general practice in Greenock, and became attached to the Eye Infirmary, where he was assistant surgeon for many years. But throughout his career his chief interest was in ear, nose, and throat work. In this connexion he assisted the late Dr. Robert Fullarton till 1920, when on the latter's retirement he assumed charge of the Greenock Ear, Nose, and Throat Institution. Here he gave splendid service, and under his direction the work was greatly developed. At the time of his death a new and commodious hospital for ear, nose, and throat cases was nearing completion, and he was eagerly looking forward to the improved facilities to be provided there. For several years he was medical officer for diseases of the ear, nose, and throat to Renfrewshire Education Authority. Dr. Robertson served for a time in Greenock Royal Infirmary as assistant surgeon, and was at the time of his death honorary consulting surgeon for diseases of the ear, nose, and throat. From 1907 he held the office of medical officer to Sir Gabriel Wood's Mariners' Asylum. He was an active member of the British Medical Association, and for three years (1934-7) was chairman of the Renfrewshire and Buteshire Division. He was also one of the original members of the Scottish Otological and Laryngological Society. The St. Andrews Ambulance Association had in Dr. Robertson an active worker, and he also took part in training V.A.D.s. Lately he was engaged in A.R.P. work. Dr. Robertson will be greatly missed by his colleagues and a large circle of patients. He was earnest and conscientious in all he undertook, and gave of his best to all who called for his services, rich and poor alike. He was deeply attached to Trinity Church, where he had been an elder for twenty-nine years.

Dr. MARTIN RANDALL, who had long practised with great success at Wimbledon, died in retirement at Haslemere on December 7, aged 71. He studied first for the teaching profession, and took the B.A. of London University in 1887; he then turned to medicine and entered University College Hospital Medical School, taking the English Conjoint diplomas and the

M.B. with first-class honours in 1892, the M.D. in 1894, and the F.R.C.S. in 1895. At University College he had been assistant demonstrator of anatomy and Atkinson Morley surgical scholar. After qualifying he was house-surgeon at U.C.H. and at the Bristol General Hospital. On his retirement from practice in 1931 Dr. Randall was made an honorary consulting surgeon by the Nelson Hospital, Wimbleton, where he had been a member of the active staff since its foundation; and University College, London, elected him one of its Fellows. He joined the British Medical Association in 1893. By his fellow practitioners Dr. Randall was held in high esteem and affection. One of them writes: I came to know what a lovable and fine character he possessed: so capable, so curiously shy and retiring till you gained his confidence; the blue eyes with the searching and steady glance expressed his character—honesty, loyalty, uprightness. He was a born surgeon, resolute, careful, and thorough, with sound judgment and hands to carry out his purpose as a fine craftsman.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a Congregation held on December 16 the following degrees were conferred:

D.M.—*L. T. Ride.

B.M.—E. J. L. Lowbury, A. N. Guthkelch, J. C. Hill, E. J. Wood, H. M. Balfour, J. C. Ryle, R. W. Tibbetts, I. C. B. Pearce, E. Smith, J. J. Brenner, K. F. Wilsdon, *D. H. Swayne, D. H. Davies.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed Sir Augustus Moore Daniel, K.B.E., M.B., Hon. Litt.D., of Trinity College, formerly Director of the National Gallery, to be Rede Lecturer for the year 1940. The place and subject of the lecture will be announced later.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

J. S. W. Little has been approved at the examination for the degree of M.D.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

At a graduation held on December 13 the following medical degrees, etc., were conferred:

M.D.—Esther Hendry (awarded commendation for thesis).

M.B., Ch.B.—I. A. Angus, A. G. Beattie, J. H. Begg, G. R. Bernard, R. S. Dewar, W. F. Dickie-Clark, F. A. Forbes, E. Fowler, J. C. Fraser, J. Gauld, C. W. Hossack, A. L. Hughes, G. E. Johnstone, M. J. Mackenzie, J. G. Moir, Elizabeth J. B. Orr, R. W. Pantou, C. W. Petrie, W. F. Russell, J. H. Scott, A. C. B. Singleton, K. Smith, G. P. Wallace, A. M. Watson, W. G. R. Wilson, C. C. Wright.

D.P.H.—R. M. Gordon, J. Warrack.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

A graduation ceremonial was held in Examination Hall B on December 15, when the following degrees, etc., were conferred:

M.D.—L. W. Brown, Captain R.A.M.C. (*in absentia*), W. N. Campbell (*in absentia*), A. H. Crichton, †J. N. Davidson, †L. V. Knutson, †R. A. H. Krynauw (*in absentia*), A. U. MacKinnon, Lieutenant R.A.M.C. (*in absentia*), J. H. D. Millar, Lieutenant R.A.M.C. (*in absentia*), P. T. Northover, †Beatrice A. S. Russell (*in absentia*), *A. C. White, †J. F. Wilson, Captain R.A.M.C. (*in absentia*).

M.B., Ch.B.—J. R. Allan, J. L. Anderson, R. Barrie, N. C. Baskett, Elizabeth G. Batters, F. W. Belford, I. R. Bindman, G. M. F. Bisset, J. Breckenridge, L. S. Bruce, B. Carr, D. Crichton, B. G. Daly, S. W. Davidson, A. R. Duff, R. M. Ellison, P. M. Fea, W. M. Ferguson, J. S. Fraser, W. A. Glen, W. M. Grant, J. H. Higgins, A. R. Hodgson, M. Homayun, E. L. O. Hood, W. Huey, W. W. Hutton, Helen S. Lauder-Thomson, N. G. Lindsay, R. N. Littlewood, C. T. MacDonald, H. J. M'Pherson, F. K. Matheson, W. C. Menzies, W. B. Nelson, J. Robertson, A. F. Rutherford, J. L. Shanks, J. L. Sinette, G. H. Stuart, W. B. Thorburn, Thelma G. Townson (*in absentia*), K. R. H. Wardrop, J. L. Washington.

D.P.H.—I. A. G. MacQueen.

PH.D. (FACULTY OF MEDICINE)—S. C. Das (*in absentia*).

* Awarded gold medal for thesis. † Highly commended for thesis. ‡ Commended for thesis.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—J. J. Black, J. McAnallen, W. E. C. McCullough, R. K. McElderry, W. J. McLeod, D. Rooney, Henrietta H. Scott, T. M. Shannon, C. D. Stewart, R. H. Trinnick, W. L. Uprichard.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At an ordinary meeting of the Council, held on December 14, with the president, Mr. Hugh Lett, in the chair, a resolution of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. Wilfred Trotter. The Council accepted with grateful thanks the offer of Mr. Herbert Olivier to present to the College a replica of his portrait of Mr. Wilfred Trotter.

It was decided to alter the time of the Hunterian Lectures to be given in 1940 from 5 p.m. to 3 p.m.

It was reported that the special trustees of the Prophit Trust had renewed the cancer research studentships of Dr. L. H. Gray and Dr. C. A. P. Wood for the year 1940.

Diplomas

A diploma of Membership was granted to Harry Vernon Reeves.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following thirty-one candidates:

N. A. Miller, R. Parkinson, M. P. Morel, P. W. Houghton, H. H. F. Barnes, C. G. Rob, J. C. Coates, J. L. D. Roberts, J. S. Horn, R. L. Lamming, C. J. Longland, A. J. Heriot, S. H. Raza, Alice J. M. T. Barnes, W. P. Greening, C. P. Sames, D. M. Thomson, P. A. Menon, S. S. Anand, J. R. Barbour, A. C. Belfield, J. O. Corbin, K. Das, D. M. Douglas, K. T. Goldswain, B. C. Hardy, J. W. Horsley, C. J. D. Langton, J. F. Lipscomb, Riyaz-I-Qadeer, T. F. Rose.

Diplomas in Anaesthetics were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to the following twenty-three candidates:

R. D. N. Bisset, F. K. Boston, Dorothy M. Braddock, I. G. Braddon, Elizabeth M. Corbin, T. F. Crowley, Charlotte S. Dafeo, E. W. Dunkley, G. H. Ellis, F. G. Ethiraj, Margaret Forbes, G. P. Fox, H. Gillies, P. Glazer, C. A. Hayes, A. L. St. A. McClosky, W. M. Maidlow, Beryl M. Mason, B. M. Phillips, T. B. Pitts, N. F. Sahor, R. N. Sinclair, B. N. Sircar.

Medical News

At the reopening ceremony of Paris University, which took place in the presence of M. Albert Lebrun, President of the French Republic, and M. Yvon Delbos, Minister of National Education, Sir Humphry Rolleston and Dr. Philip Roy, formerly Minister of Canada at Paris, were made honorary doctors.

Sir Bernard Docker has accepted the invitation of the Council of the British Hospitals Association to become its chairman in succession to Sir Harold Pink. He has been closely identified with the interests of the voluntary hospitals through his association with the Westminster Hospital, London, and the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

A meeting of the general purposes committee of the International Society of Medical Hydrology was held in London on November 17 to deal with emergency measures made necessary by the war, and also by the death of the society's chairman of council, Dr. E. P. Poulton. By the unanimous vote of the members present and of all those abroad who could be reached by post, Dr. J. Barnes Burt was elected chairman of council until such time as the whole council could meet, and the general purposes committee was strengthened by the appointment of four additional vice-chairmen, all in countries "neutral" in the present conflict. It was further resolved that the cash balance remaining should be set aside for reconstruction of the society after the war, and the general secretary was given indefinite leave of absence without pay and instructed to close the London office. This has now been done and the society's address will be, until further notice, that of the hon. treasurer, Dr. G. D. Kersley, 6, The Circus, Bath.